(c) the period for which the lease has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa in respect of mining leases granted in Orissa and Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Department of Mines, in respect of mining leases granted in Chhattisgarh, the details of mining leases granted to private parties for bauxite mining in Orissa and Chhattisgarh in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

Orissa

No. of mining leases	Area (in hectares)	Location	Date of execution/grant of mining lease	Period of lease
One	1388.74	Baphalimali, district Rayagada (Orissa)	10.11.2000	30 years

Chhattisgarh

Two	10.02	Budhiyarmari, district Kankar (Chhattisgarh)	21.8.2000	30 years

Backlog of SC/ST Vacancies

298. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of vacancies of SC/ST candidates in the public sector undertakings under his Ministry as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) the separate break up thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The backlog of vacancies pertaining to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in respect of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal and Mines, except Bharat Gold Mines Limited, as on 31.3.2001 is as under:—

Name of the PSU	Backlog of SC	Backlog of ST
Hindustan Copper Limited	33	17
Hindustan Zinc Limited	32	60
National Aluminium Company Limited	14	11
Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited	47	20
Coal India Limited	653	1285
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited	32	93

Bharat Gold Mines Limited stands closed w.e.f. 1.3.2001 under section 25(o) of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 subject to the decision of High Court of Karnataka where the matter is subjudice.

(c) The Ministry regularly reviews the position relating to unfilled vacancies of SCs/STs (including backlog vacancies) in its public sector undertakings and has instructed these organisations to clear the backlog of vacancies earmarked for SCs/STs.

Exploration and Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane

299. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for more exploration/ exploitation of coal bed methane in the country;

(b) if so, what are the sites identified for this purpose;